

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendment to the claims and the remarks presented herein.

The claims in the application are claims 1 to 10, the only claims presented. Claims 2 and 3 have been written in independent form and are believed to be allowable as indicated by the Examiner and all the claims have been revised to conform to the American practice.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Cecur which according to the Examiner discloses a valve timing mechanism for four-cycle engines comprising a rocker arm frame which is configured in one piece from lightweight metal and has two bars which are connected by webs, for accomodating rocker arms; hydraulic elements for valve clearance compensation which have an outer piston which is open on one side and has a supporting ball which is configured on one piece at the closed end of said outer piston, and an inner piston which is open on one side, is guided in the outer piston and is connected in flow terms via a spring-loaded ball valve to a high-pressure space of said outer piston; a steel sheet part which is arranged between the hydraulic elements and the rocker arm frame; a pressurized oil line which is arranged in the longitudinal extent of the rocker arm frame at the level of the open end of the hydraulic elements; deep-drawn steel sheet rocker arms which are configured uniformly for all the valves, having a U-shaped cross section and having cylindrical rollers mounted on needle bearings for at least one camshaft, and having a cap for the supporting ball, and having contact elements for the valve stems of the inlet and outer valves, wherein the outer pistons of the

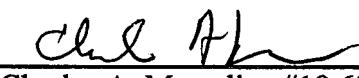
hydraulic elements are guided in blind bores of the rocker arm frame, and in that a steel disk is arranged at the bottom of the blind bores as a stop for the inner piston.

Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection since amended claim 1 is not anticipated or obvious from Cecur. Claim 1 has been amended to recite the function of the steel sheet part and to remove the restriction of “two bars” since the bars may be one or more.

The basic object of Applicant's invention is to avoid the use of the expensive separate bushing (44) in the blind bore of Cecur Applicant's steel disk (11) at the bottom of the blind bore of the invention is an extremely inexpensive mass article, which enables very easy assembly and (most important) avoids abrasive wear at the light weight material bottom (aluminum) during operation of engine (inner piston (10) rotates on bottom of blind bore). There is no need to provide the disk with bores etc. as a passage for oil / air (pls. See Fig. 7 of WO, bore (50))+ no press fit is required with influencing the material of the carrier (2) in the surrounding of the blind bore. The bushing (44) of Cecur contains a bottom indeed, however, this bottom as a part of the bushing is not a disk as described above. Therefore, Cecur does not anticipate or render obvious Applicant's invention and withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested.

In view of the amendment to the claims and the above remarks, it is believed that the claims point out Applicant's patentable invention. Therefore, favorable reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures